

Porting and Athletics Had a Hell of a Time in District in 1917

ENSEMBLE TO SUPPORT LOCAL TEAM

Griff's Nationals Had Hard Uphill Battle in 1917. Finished in Rut.

History in local major league baseball repeated itself in 1917 as the Nationals found themselves in the rut of losing and standing after one of the poorest seasons ever witnessed here. Poor attendance of the local fans caused rumors to float thick and fast that the Nationals might be sold to some other franchise at the meeting held in December and Clark Griffith and the board of directors of the local club denied these outcries repeatedly.

Washington has not and, according to the best of hope, will not lose its franchise in the American League and every one is looking ahead with confidence for the baseball world in 1918.

Ever since the reign of Clark Griffith, the Nationals have trained in Charlottesville, Va., but the owner has not been so successful in hoodooing on Griffith and his club in the little Virginia college town that the training camp of 1917 was changed. The rookies of the team were picked out in Georgia, on the first day of March and were joined by the regulars on the 10th of the month. For twelve days after this date the Nationals worked hard in the hot sun of Georgia and the training trip in the little town across the Carolina line was given the O. K. approval of all hands as practice was only halted one day because of bad weather. On March 22 the squad divided into two teams and barnstorming trips to the Capital were under way. The Yankies, under the leadership of Ray, Motor, went up the coast and although they failed to return with any big financial results, they showed that Griffith was gathered around him some promising youngsters and his game was won by a big margin.

The first string team hit the trail through the middle west playing games in the States and Canada. The Nationals broke even in this series and things looked rosy for local fandom, but shortly after the team got under way, Griffith's club was handicapped. The team which held the team back in the Nationals being back in the rut from a financial standpoint the season was a poor one, as even a spectator could see by the attendance that the club lost money. This was due to the war work of the government clerks who were the big supporters of the team. During the summer months it was impossible for the government to spare its aid and when the team settled in September and October the club was so far back that it was like wading time to make the journey to the Florida Avenue Stadium to pull for losing out.

Griff picked up a couple of promising youngsters in Horace Milan and Mike Menosky last season, but will be without their services in 1918. The Nationals' special call to arms, George Du Mont, the young right-handed pitcher, purchased in 1915, proved a winner for the Old Folks last season and could have a good season in 1918. Doug Ayer, another who has joined the ranks, had the best season of his career in 1917. Summy Rice was the only National to be named to the All-Star team, marking his first year by one point. Walter Johnson led the league again in strikeouts, but did not get started until late in June.

AMATEUR BASEBALL

Organized amateur baseball in the District had the poorest season in its history. The old saying, "You never miss a good man until he is gone," was mainly responsible for the poor season, as Harry Shurtliff, who acted as manager to the Nationals for the past three seasons, accepted an advancement in the United States Marine Corps, and, of course, was the best of the best. No one could be found to replace one of the greatest men amateur baseball anywhere has ever known, and with the leading spirit gone, amateur baseball had a hard time of it. The season was a poor one, but the many rough spots that confronted the leagues during the season.

Just as a side issue, it was Sergeant Harry Shurtliff to his many friends, but many of his friends, who were those in local baseball, will be more than pleased to note that it is now Capt. Harry Shurtliff, and he is sure to be the best wishes of good luck of all in his new stride against Kaiser Bill.

INTERCOLLESTIC BASEBALL

Central High School captured the intercollegiate title last year. Central was the favorite all the way, and proved the class of the high school series. It won all four of its games with ease as it scored about twenty runs in each game. Eastern was never in the running, as it had a very small squad from which to build a team; but it posed the old never-say-die belief and made a fairly good showing in the series.

NEW YEAR PROPHECY.

What will it bring? asked the better section of the sports writers. What will the New Year bring? Will Alex and Johnson lose more than they win? Will Wagner come back in the spring? Will nineteen-eighths with its stars and its goals develop another Frank Chance? Will the team win a pennant? Will Brown and one? Will Jim after Ed Collins dance? With all of the guessing on dope that is to come. The best part of my job is to figure whatever the New Year does, it won't bring another Ty Cobb.

FOOTBALL HAS GOOD SEASON

Georgetown Leads Way for Local Elevens—Central Tops Scholastic.

But three local colleges placed teams on the gridiron last fall, Catholic University and George Washington University being without capable material to make possible any kind of showing in the great collegiate game. Georgetown, Maryland State and Gallaudet were represented, and of this trio the Hilltoppers showed the best. Although Coach Exendine's machine failed to run up the points like the team of 1916, it finished by winning seven games and losing one, taking the ranking of number ten in the list of elevens in the country. The only set-back handed the Hilltoppers was by the powerful Navy team, the Middles winning a hard battle by a 28-10 score. Georgetown took such well-known teams into camp as Springfield, "Y" Lehigh, Virginia Poly, Fordham and Washington and Lee and finished off the season by turning back the crack Usacs eleven from Allentown, Pa. Maryland State won but four of its eight games played while Virginia Military Institute was played to a 14-14 tie. Although Navy and Penn State defeated the Hilltoppers, Georgetown got under way, Griffith's club was handicapped. The team which held the team back in the Nationals being back in the rut from a financial standpoint the season was a poor one, as even a spectator could see by the attendance that the club lost money. This was due to the war work of the government clerks who were the big supporters of the team. During the summer months it was impossible for the government to spare its aid and when the team settled in September and October the club was so far back that it was like wading time to make the journey to the Florida Avenue Stadium to pull for losing out.

INDEPENDENT BASEBALL

The sandlot game, better known to the Sabbath fans who patronize the games despite the pressure of the war, had a prosperous season. The teams were slow in getting started but many of the big supporters showed the first call of colors, but along in the month of June twelve good organized teams were in the field for the title in this vicinity. Like the season of 1916, the approach of fall found four teams classed among the best in this vicinity, and a series for the title was played. These teams were the Cardinal Athletic Club of Washington, the Rex Athletic Club of Alexandria, the Alexandria Country Athletic Association of Clarendon, Va. After a hotly fought series the Clarendon team was again awarded the championship.

INDEPENDENT FOOTBALL

The individual work of Von Herules, Bolen and Watt helped the team to the title role, while Braun and Fitzgerald were the stars of the Athletics, and Macdonald, of the Cardinals, proved to be the best players on the other clubs. The Washington Redskins and the Annapolis Railroad team, which figure in the 1918 championship, failed to meet any local clubs. But one, ranking teams, in independent circles was organized last fall, this being the champion Mohawk Athletic Club eleven which again won the title. Although there was a lack of first-class local independent teams to face the Indians the Mohawks found plenty of competition in the ranks of the "Sammys" and "Blue Jackets" stationed in this vicinity, and the team which pressed these games were treated to some of the best football in the history of the sport. After setting back all its opponents the Mohawks ran into an snag when they met the Twelfth Coast Artillery eleven which played them a 0-0 tie. This game was followed by a 0-0 tie with the engineers from Washington Barracks, but because of a dispute over the Mohawks' right to play the Artillery played out their game with the Mohawks coming out on the long end of a 13 to 0 count. As the Engineers were ordered to some other place, the chance of settling the dispute was not forthcoming, but, owing to the great record established by the Clubmen they were granted the honors in independent circles.

WRESTLING.

The grappling fans were treated to some real attractions during the past season. Joe Turner, who claims the middle-weight title, defended his title until late in the spring, when Jack Oser, of Bethel, Pa., won two of the three matches. Turner then moved to the Gayety Theater, Mike Yoke, of the Salt Lake City Mormon, granted Turner the much sought bout in this city and the local grappler won when Yoke refused to come back for the third fall after each had gained one. John Olin, who won the heavy-weight title from Joe Stecher, was a visitor here shortly after gaining his title, but he was not in the ring. Dr. Roller in this match, who substituted for Olin, was winner in the bout. Dr. Roller in this match, who substituted for Olin, was winner in the bout. Dr. Roller in this match, who substituted for Olin, was winner in the bout.

Sporting Activities in the District Were Handed Many Jolts and Setbacks Because of the Pressure of the War

By JOHN A. DUGAN.

Nineteen hundred and seventeen soon will pass into the vista of years. The sands in the glass have almost run their course, and when the last grain has settled with the history of the New Year the two months which is about to be closed can be placed in the records of time as one that was uncertain throughout, and suffered with plenty of its ups and downs, but with a live interest in all branches of sport. After Uncle Sam kept into the world's great war it put a damper on sporting events in this city. After a year of the war the athletic and sporting events were necessary for training of war fighters, the sporting world in general took a new lease on life, and, along with the training of the war, the summer and fall season of the year found local athletics thriving once more.

Baseball, tennis, golf, boxing, racing, swimming, and other athletics in all their branches, professional and amateur, are looking forward to a successful season in 1918. To cover the year 1917 insofar as actual sports and records are concerned, the sports columns upon columns of statistics. Records of the many events that have taken place in all lines of sport would show the breaking of many records and the making of many new champions. The local season taken as a whole was not up to the standard of athletics before war was declared. A full review of local sports during the season is in this issue.

RACING.

The local racing season was ushered in at Havre de Grace this fall and was conducted in this vicinity nearly three months until the final curtain at Bowie late in November. The sleepy little village was willingly waiting to receive the game with open arms. The sport was sent off to a flying start there, and was followed by one month's racing at Laurel track. The thoroughbred then went to Pimlico for the summer meeting of the hilltoppers. Bowle came next, and like its three predecessors carried the most successful meeting of the season.

SCHOLASTIC FOOTBALL

To Central goes the title of the High School football season as it had a record breaking eleven. It went with only nine points scored against the team of the hardiest Central crossed during the high school series. In the Central-Business game the largest score of the season was hung up in a new mark set for scholastic football, which was a 40-0 victory. During the 40 minutes of play Central scored 120 points, while its opponents were never within the danger zone. This 120 point record was a touchdown in a minute, to come down to actual figures, and any team to run up such high marks. The season of 1917 was marked by the fact that the approach of fall found four teams classed among the best in this vicinity, and a series for the title was played. These teams were the Cardinal Athletic Club of Washington, the Rex Athletic Club of Alexandria, the Alexandria Country Athletic Association of Clarendon, Va. After a hotly fought series the Clarendon team was again awarded the championship.

BOXING.

The poor, good-natured boxing fans of the District were handed a quartet of badly managed bouts during the year. The first was staged on New Year's Day at the Ardmore arena, when 1,000 fans journeyed over the electric trolley to watch the boxing of Brooklyn, N. Y., against fifteen rounds with the local veteran Tommy Lowe. On top of this farce a few weeks later Fay Kaiser, the Cumberland over the top of the trolley, and a local policeman, to take a good beating. This was enough for the fan for a while, but when the winter months came, Sam Langford, the Boston brawler, came to the city to fight a big share of the local boxing, and Johnson, who did not help to boost the game here in any way, as he flopped in the first round. The recent Kid Sheeler-Jeff Smith affair has been enough for local fandom and it is a sure bet that it will take a man with iron-clad nerve and he must be a glutton for punishment to want to open the doors of the Ardmore arena again.

COLLEGIATE BASEBALL

The four colleges in this vicinity had elaborate schedules for the past season, but the account of the war preparations had to curtail many of their plans. Catholic University played about half of its games and won the majority. Its big game of the year, that was the game with the Potomac, which was won after a hard fight in the eleventh inning by a 3-0-2 count. Georgetown had several games scheduled with the big five, but had to cancel them. Although the team played a few games, it was only played a few games. Its big success of the year was the defeat of its ancient rival, Lehigh, in a 6-0-5 battle. Maryland State and Gallaudet had a three-cornered tie in the Potomac. This game was followed by a 0-0 tie with the engineers from Washington Barracks, but because of a dispute over the Mohawks' right to play the Artillery played out their game with the Mohawks coming out on the long end of a 13 to 0 count. As the Engineers were ordered to some other place, the chance of settling the dispute was not forthcoming, but, owing to the great record established by the Clubmen they were granted the honors in independent circles.

SOCCER.

Soccer is taking a death grip on the District and is getting a better grip on the followers of the sport each day. It is being played by some of the graded schools which means the game is sure to be a boost. The only organization that has consistently played soccer this past year has been the Washington Soccer Club, which went through a season with about as many losses as wins. The most remarkable game was the defeat of the strong St. Elizabeth team from Baltimore, which beat them 3-0.

The Year's Champions

BASEBALL.
World Champions—Chicago White Sox.
American League Champions—Chicago White Sox.
National League Champions—New York Giants.
Leading American League Pitcher—Eddie Cicotte.
Leading National League Pitcher—Grover Alexander.
Leading American League Batter—Babe Ruth.
Leading National League Batter—Babe Ruth.
Leading American League Base Stealer—Max Carey.
Leading National League Base Stealer—Max Carey.

High Spots of the Baseball Year.
Ty Cobb hit safely in 35 consecutive games.
Grover Alexander won 30 victories for his third consecutive year, tying Mathewson's record.

FOOTBALL.
Eastern Champions—Pittsburgh University.
Big Ten Champions—Ohio State University.
Southern Champions—Georgia Tech.
Pacific Coast Champions—Washington State College.
Southwestern Champions—Texas A. & M.
Missouri Valley Champions—Nebraska University.
Leading Eastern Team—Naval Academy, 162 points.
Team Leading in Scoring—Georgia Tech.

Heavy-weight—Jesse Willard.
Light Heavy-weight—Al Capone.
Middle-weight—Jack O'Dowd.
Welter-weight—Ted Lewis.
Light-weight—Benny Leonard.
Feather-weight—Johnny Kilbane.
Bantam-weight—Pete Herman.
Fly-weight—Jimmie Wilde.

TENNIS.
There were no championship tennis matches this year. R. Morris Williams and Miss Molla Bjurest, retaining their national titles.

Running—Houder. greatest winner of the year.
Pacing—Miss Harris M. set new record for mares at 2:00.
Indoor Record, Mile—Johnny Overton, 4:16.
Indoor Record, 1,000 Yards—Johnny Overton, 2:14.
Indoor Record, 2 Miles—Johnny Overton, 5:11 2-5.
Indoor Record, 60 Yards—Jo Loomis, 8:01 2-5.
Indoor Record, 300 Yards—A. B. Kelly, 0:31 2-5.
Outdoor Record, 15-mile Walk—A. B. Kelly, 1:37:17 2-5.

Swimming.
Oscar Mathieson retains world speed skating championship.

BOWLING.
Duckpin obtained a death grip on the local season, and the year's sport was the best that has been known to date. The Royal team, whose membership was Halley, Lewis, Carroll, and Carroll, won the championship. The highest team total of the season, gathering in 1,783 pins in the games of 611, 644 and 518. Krause led the way with two games of 148 and 149. Another of 126 for a total of 422.

This score was rolled in the District League, and the Continentals of the same circuit furnished the best of the season. The team, which was the best of the season, rolled a total of 434. Johnny Vast of the Grand Central team rolled a set of 682 for five games. The league enjoyed a good year, but the big event of the season was the tournament which was held in the spring of the year under the auspices of the Washington City Duckpin Association, which furnished the following winners: 1,617; Agrigore, Class A teams, 1,615; Agrigore, Class C teams, 1,535; Barber and Hansford, Class A doubles, 700; Fischer and Everett, Class B doubles, 690; Martin and Neumeyer, Class C doubles, 666; E. J. Crowley, Class A singles, 358; P. C. Gowen, Class B singles, 358; C. C. Plunkett, Class C singles, 358; E. J. Crowley, Class A all events, 1,058; P. C. Gowen, Class B all events, 1,012; C. E. Jenkins, Class C all events, 1,009.

MOTORCYCLE RACING.
The motorcycle racing title has been very much disputed during the past few years, but William Denham has won it conclusively that he was the best rider in the world. He won the Memorial Day meet Denham walked away with every event in which the local and out-of-town riders were competing, and he stood off the reputation of the local machine and crack rider in the two events held on Labor Day.

CANOEING.
The Washington Canoe Club captured the largest part of the Coughlin honors this season. They won the Associated Canoeists regatta with 51 points, which was 6 better than its nearest competitor. They also finished first in the Potomac Regatta in 1916, and the Potomac Regatta of the Washington Canoe Club carried off top honors with 23 points to his credit.

CRICKET.
There is only one senior organization in cricket in the city, known as the Washington Cricket Club, and its competition comes from the Monumental Cricket Club. The latter has been just holding its own with the two representatives of Baltimore.

Rowing.
Rowing regattas were hard hit during 1917, as most of the big regattas were called off throughout the country and only one event was held here, that was the local regatta. When the going was good, the regatta was held on the Potomac Boat Club and the Annapolis Boat Club were among the first to answer the call, but late in August the athletes of the Potomac Club held a closed regatta.

TRAP SHOOTING.
Trap shooting is conducted under the auspices of the Annapolis Gun Club, which has been very successful during the past year. Regattas have been held every Saturday during the summer and up until the first of the fall, which has furnished plenty of sport for the members of the club and their friends.

TROTTERING AND PACING.
Washington horsemen were only given one opportunity during 1917 to show the spirit of their thoroughbreds. The Rockville Fair, which was held during the closing days of August, saw local horsemen cleaning up in nearly all the events.

Billiards.
Two tournaments were held in the District for pocket billiards players during 1917. Walter Wallace, who has been recognized as the best champion for the past four or five years, took the honors in the tournament held at Frank Sherman's parlors, but he failed to enter the big tournament held at the Rockville Fair, which was held during the closing days of August, saw local horsemen cleaning up in nearly all the events.

Packard for Williams.
Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 28.—George H. Packard, center fielder of the Philadelphia Athletics, has been traded to the Chicago Nationals for Cy Williams, center fielder of the Cubs.

GOLF.

Notwithstanding the fact that on account of the war golfing progress throughout the country was curtailed, local players enjoyed a very good year. Although only four tournaments were held, there were a number of good professional exhibition matches scheduled for the benefit of the Red Cross and for other relief work, while weekly, monthly and special events were held at all of the local clubs at short intervals throughout the season.

Best of the local amateur events was furnished by the Chevy Chase Club, D. Clarke won the Baltimore Country Club, winning with William S. Keyburn, of the home club, runner-up. The best match of this event was the semi-final, when C. C. Corbitt beat Norman W. Maxwell, North and South champion, on the nineteenth green after having been "down" all the way. Norbert Dempsey captured the Atlantic honors, beating out Edward B. Eyring, Jr., of Columbia, in the ultimate round. This event was a "patriotic" one, being played on the Columbia, Chevy Chase and Chevy Chase Country Clubs.

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National Indoor Tennis Title to Hendrickson

New York, Dec. 29.—In an arctic atmosphere which dampened the ardor of the most enthusiastic fan, the Junior National Indoor Tennis singles championship was annexed today by Edward H. Hendrickson, the Amherst College star. He defeated Harold L. Taylor, the Brooklyn prep player and holder of the Metropolitan honors, in five sets by 3-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 and 6-4.

The boys' national title was won by Cecil Donaldson, the star high school youngster. He secured an easy three-set victory over Abraham Baseford by 6-2, 6-2 and 6-2.

The professionals opened the season with a tournament at the Columbia Country Club, Gilbert Nichols beating out a big field for top honors. Nichols was followed by Walter Hagen, second, with Walter Hagen, third, Jim Barnes, Wilfred Reid, Jack Hutchinson, Alexander Campbell and the local "pros" all contributed to the "hot" in exhibition matches, which were the season of exceptional interest from a spectacular viewpoint.

The best of the local amateur events was furnished by the Chevy Chase Club, D. Clarke won the Baltimore Country Club, winning with William S. Keyburn, of the home club, runner-up. The best match of this event was the semi-final, when C. C. Corbitt beat Norman W. Maxwell, North and South champion, on the nineteenth green after having been "down" all the way. Norbert Dempsey captured the Atlantic honors, beating out Edward B. Eyring, Jr., of Columbia, in the ultimate round. This event was a "patriotic" one, being played on the Columbia, Chevy Chase and Chevy Chase Country Clubs.

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